



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Buffalo Office
465 Main Street
Buffalo, New York 14203-1780
(716) 551-5755

SEP 24 2004

Mr. Joel A. Giambra
Erie County Executive
Edward A. Rath County Office Building
95 Franklin Street
Buffalo, NY 14202-3973

Dear Mr. Giambra:

SUBJECT: Annual Community Assessment/Program Year Review Letter; Community Development Block Grant (B-03-UC-36-0001), Emergency Shelter Grants (S-03-UC-36-0011) and HOME Investment Partnerships (M03-DC360507) Programs; County of Erie, New York

The provisions of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and Title I of the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 require that HUD review the performance of each grant recipient, to determine whether it is in compliance with the statutes and whether it has the continuing capacity to implement and administer the program for which assistance was received.

This letter is to inform you of the results of our assessment of performance under the County's previously approved Consolidated Plan/Annual Action Plan for the 2003 Program Year, as outlined below. HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) is required to review grant performance by our grant partners under various community development programs. While our assessment primarily focused on your 2003 program (April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004), as reported in the County's 2003 Consolidated Annual performance and Evaluation report (CAPER) and IDIS-generated reports, we have also considered other efforts, as well.

During the period April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004 the County of Erie expended CDBG funds on the following activities:

- ADA improvements in the Town of Marilla, the Town of Alden, and the Village of East Aurora - \$134,000
- Sidewalk replacement in the City of Tonawanda, the Village of Gowanda, the Town of West Seneca, and the Village of Alden - \$293,650
- Sewer/water facility improvements in the Town of Lancaster and the Village of Angola - \$56,500
- Storm drainage improvements in the Town of Elma - \$43,500

- Center Street Reconstruction in the City of Lackawanna - \$90,000
- Recreational facility improvements in the Town of Eden - \$87,500
- Upgrades at senior centers located in the Town of Newstead, the Town of Sardinia, and the Town of Orchard Park - \$112,750
- Historic preservation activities at the Hollywood Theater in the Village of Gowanda - \$14,500
- Demolition and asbestos abatement activities at Castle Hill Reservoir in the Village of East Aurora - \$90,000
- Rural transportation in thirteen towns and seven villages in rural Erie County \$41,200
- Van service for senior citizens in the East-town communities - \$50,700
- Technical assistance for planning activities throughout the Consortium - \$65,250

In PY 2003 Erie County expended HOME funds to assist 58 first-time homebuyers and to rehabilitate 32 units located throughout the Consortium. In addition, ESG funds were used to support programs operated by the following homeless providers: YWCA (Tonawanda and Springville), Salvation Army, New Life Residential Center, Cazenovia Recovery Turning Point, Compass House, Franciscan Center, Interfaith Hospitality, and FLARE.

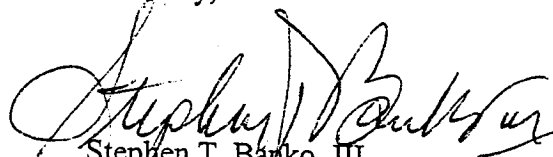
Our review disclosed that the County of Erie has made good progress implementing the activities it committed to in its 2003 Annual Action Plan. In addition, all of the activities completed during PY 2003 were consistent with the priority activities identified in the County's 2000 to 2004 Consolidated Plan.

The OMB Circular A-133, Audits of States and Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations requires submission of the County's Single Audit Report within nine months of the end of the County's fiscal year. This means that the audit for the period ending December 31, 2003 will be due on September 30, 2004. The County's audit status is current. The most recently submitted audit, for the period ending December 31, 2002, did not identify any deficiencies impacting on the management of your HUD programs. As a result, we have no recommendations at this time for areas in which the Independent Public Accountant(s) should concentrate his review.

It is our intention that this assessment, in addition to meeting the mandates of the statutes, will also provide a basis for working together collaboratively to achieve your housing and community development goals. This letter should be made available to the public within 30 days of receipt. You can assist us in this regard by sharing it via your established citizen participation process.

We congratulate the County of Erie and the Department Environment & Planning for successfully implementing your overall five-year Consolidated Plan Program and the 2003 Annual Action Plan in a timely and professional manner. In conclusion, based on program information currently available to our office, our analysis has confirmed that your overall performance is satisfactory. We congratulate you on the County's record, and look forward to working with the County in the upcoming year. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Linda Moore, Community Planning and Development Representative, on 716-551-5755, extension 5830.

Sincerely,



Stephen T. Barko, III
Field Office Director, 2CS

cc:

Laurence K. Rubin, Commissioner

Thomas J. Dearing, Community Planning Coordinator